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MISSILE PROLIFERATION

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As the committee will be aware, there has been an increase in recent months in threats to U.S. interests caused by the introduction or use of ballistic missiles in the Middle East. Modified Soviet SCUD missiles have been used by Iraq against Iran, and Saudi Arabia has purchased Chinese CSS-2 intermediate range missiles. Other nations in the region are believed to have discussed the purchase of ballistic missiles.

The U.S. is actively engaged in an effort to prevent the proliferation of ballistic missiles. The Secretary of State, I myself and the Secretary of Defense have held extensive discussions with key figures in the Chinese government, to express our concern over Chinese missile exports. The Chinese appear to have understood our concerns and have indicated that restraint would be exercised with respect to missile exports.

After his talks with Chinese leaders, Secretary Carlucci stated that he was fully satisfied with their statements that China takes a prudent approach to arms sales. The USSR has also been engaged, bilaterally and multilaterally, on this issue. The US-Soviet expert-level discussions on missile proliferation, agreed to by President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev, are now in progress. In parallel with these efforts, the US and its MTCR partners are attempting to broaden the scope of our multilateral controls

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on missile exports to exclude actual or potential exporters of missiles and technology which are not presented associated with the MTCR. For example, discussions are underway with certain European neutral nations, members of the EC, and Third World nations with missile programs underway.

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